

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 22403 021824Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05
NASA-01 OES-07 /098 W
-----048264 030133Z /72

R 021757Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6543
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, FR, US, GW

SUBJECT: LE MONDE ARTICLES ON THE NEUTRON BOMB

REFS: A) BONN 12541 (NOTAL), B) MOSCOW 11063 (NOTAL)

1. AMONG RECENT REACTIONS TO NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE,
LE MONDE AUGUST 2 CARRIED TWO SIGNED COMMENTARIES.
THE FIRST, ENTITLED "FALSE DETERRENCE," BY PROFES-
SIONAL ANTI-NUCLEAR WEAPONS AUTHOR, DOMINIQUE HALEVY,
PRESENTS SHRILL BUT STANDARD CASE AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB.
THE SECOND, BY HIGHLY RESPECTED FORMER FRENCH AMBASSADOR
TO NATO, FRANCOIS DE ROSE, IS MORE SIGNIFICANT. HIS
SHORT TEXT, WHICH APPEARED UNDER HEADLINE "A STRANGE
SILENCE," IS THEREFORE REPORTED IN FULL.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 22403 021824Z

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"WE LEARN FROM THE PRESS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER
AND THE AMERICAN SENATE ARE ENVISAGING PRODUCTION OF
THE NEUTRON BOMB BUT THAT THE QUESTION WHETHER EUROPEAN
DEFENSE FORCES SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH IT IS STILL UNDER
CONSIDERATION. WHO IS CONSIDERING? THESE SAME

(AMERICAN) AUTHORITIES--WHOSE COMPETENCE AND WHOSE INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF OUR CONTINENT IS BEYOND QUESTION, BUT WHO ARE NOT, ONE MAY BE PERMITTED TO SAY, THE ONLY ONES CONCERNED.

"AND SO, ONE ASKS ONESELF, WHAT DO THE EUROPEANS THINK? WHAT DOES THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THINK? THE DEBATE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN OPENED IN THE FRG WHERE MR. EGON BAHR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SPD, HAS ASKED HIMSELF IF IT IS MORAL TO USE A WEAPON WHICH KILLS EVERYTHING ALIVE BUT SPARES MATERIAL GOODS. THE DISCUSSION THEN DISSIPATED ITSELF ON THE OPERATIONAL VALUE OF THIS WEAPON.

"THIS POSES MANY QUESTIONS. WOULD A NEUTRON BOMB MAKE WAR IN EUROPE MORE OR LESS LIKELY? WOULD IT OR WOULD IT NOT HAVE THE EFFECT OF BREAKING THE EXISTING LINKAGE BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL, TACTICAL NUCLEAR AND STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS WHICH, BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF ESCALATION HAVE UP TO NOW ASSURED DETRRENCE AND SECURITY? WOULD IT EMPHASIZE THE DIFFERENCES OR THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN THEATER AND THE TERRITORIES OF THE TWO SUPER POWERS? WHAT WOULD THE PROBLEM OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE LOOK LIKE ON THE DAY--WHICH WILL COME--WHEN BOTH CAMPS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH IT? IF A DEPLOYMENT BAN WERE CONSIDERED DOES IT HAVE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH WOULD PERMIT DETECTION OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS?

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PAGE 03 PARIS 22403 021824Z

"THESE FIRST QUESTIONS WHICH COME TO MIND ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES, AND IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THERE ARE SATISFACTORY ANSWERS. BUT IT IS ONLY BY ANALYZING THE ANSWERS THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FORM AN OPINION AS TO CHOICES WHICH WILL, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AFFECT EUROPE'S FUTURE. ONE ALSO BEGINS TO WISH THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS SEEK TO DEFINE A COMMON POINT OF VIEW, CONCERTED WITH THE UNITED STATES, SINCE THE DESTINY OF THEIR PEOPLE IS INVOLVED AND IT IS THEIR FORCES WHO WOULD BE DEPLOYED IN THE THEATER IN WHICH THESE WEAPONS WOULD PERHAPS BE USED. AS FAR AS OUR OWN COUNTRY IS CONCERNED IT IS IN NO WAY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF ITS DEFENSE POLICY TO SEEK A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF CONCEPTS AND MEANS AIMED AT ASSURING EUROPEAN SECURITY.

"WILL THE EUROPEANS WAIT TO BE GIVEN WASHINGTON'S DECISION LIKE A BOWL OF NINE-TENTHS DIGESTED OPERATIONAL RESEARCH? END TEXT.

3. COMMENTS: FRENCH REACTION TO THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE HAS SO FAR BEEN MUCH MORE SUBDUED THAN THAT REPORTED FROM THE FRG. THE LE MONDE PIECES, REVERBER-

ATIONS OF GERMAN ANXIETIES, AS WELL AS THE APPARENTLY
GROWING SOVIET EMPHASIS ON THE NEUTRON BOMB THEME MAY
SERVE TO STIMULATE A MORE ACTIVE FRENCH PUBLIC DIS-
CUSSION. FOR THE PRESENT, DE ROSE HAS POSED THE ISSUE
BRIEFLY AND SOBERLY IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT, EVEN THOUGH
HIS OWN MISGIVINGS DO SHINE THROUGH.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR WARHEADS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS22403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770277-0473
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708106/aaaadmfi.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d9dc9e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 12541, 77 MOSCOW 11063
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1418792
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LE MONDE ARTICLES ON THE NEUTRON BOMB
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SOPN, FR, US, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d9dc9e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009